

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 7, and claims 10 through 16 have been rejected. The Examiner has objected to claims 8, 9, 17-20 because they depend from the rejected claims. The Applicant has amended claims 1-3, and 7. The Applicant has canceled
5 claims 4-6 and claims 8-20. The Applicant has prepared new claims 21-24. In view of these changes the Applicant hereby submits a total of 8 claims.

102(b) Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and as being anticipated by Hannahs
10 (3,518,397). The Applicant has modified independent claim 1 to comprise an operator control panel that receives a welding program, at least one module controlled by the welding program, and common bus that permits communications between the module and the operator control panel. Hannahs '397 fails to teach one or more of these claim elements. Additionally, from an obviousness
15 perspective, the prior art cited by the Examiner fails to teach each of these claim elements.

103(a) Rejection

The Examiner rejected claim 7 as being unpatentable over Hannahs '397
20 taken with either one of Akutagawa (5,232,192) or Bernard et al. (2,818,494). Claim 7 depends on claim 1. The Applicant has modified independent claim 1 to

comprise an operator control panel that receives a welding program, at least one module controlled by the welding program, and common bus that permits communications between the module and the operator control panel. Each of the patents identified by the Examiner, namely, Hannahs '397, Akutagawa '192, and
5 Bernard '494 fails to teach one or more of the claims elements in independent claim 1 and dependent claim 7.

New Claims

Four new claims are submitted that overcome the prior art cited by the
10 Examiner. The four new claims depend on independent claim 21, which comprises a CPU. The CPU is not taught by any of the patents cited by the Examiner. Thus, based on the prior art cited by the Examiner, that Applicant argues that these new claims identify allowable subject matter.

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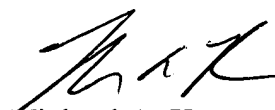
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully submitted.

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Sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Kerr', written in a cursive style.

Michael A. Kerr
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